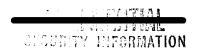
CONTRACTOR AND SECURITY INFORMATION

VIA : Chief, Geographic Research, CER Chief, Geography Division, ORR 16 October 1953

Evaluation of CIA/RR-G-11, Physical and Cultural Geography of West China, Kansu, Sikiang, Tsinghai, and Northwestern Szechwan

- 1. This excellent research paper adequately indicates the scute problems which Communist China will have when it attempts to assimilate the many and varied minority groups in West China. The requester, who has already received advance copies, has indicated a high degree of approval and appreciation.
- 2. The intelligence material available for West China is fragmentary and largely unrelated. For this reason, direct verification of information is selden possible and verification procedures were incorporated into the methodology of the report. An attempt was made to restrict the subject matter of the report to elements in the physical and cultural geography of West China that were relatively stable and subject to a minimum of physical or cultural change. As the report was organized, those elements were related to one another in a methodological framework. The resulting relationships comprise the three major problems of the reports environmental edjustment, cultural contact and conflict, and social control; the rest of the methodology is the degree to which it reasonably explains those relationships. Conversely, individual items of intelligence are considered insofar as they are consistent with the basic assumptions of the methodology. The weak points of the methodology are: a. its logic is somewhat circular, b. the basic assumptions upon which the validity of the mathodology rests are based upon intelligence which usually cannot be directly verified, and c. the verification of further intelligence information depends on basic assumptions which may not be entirely true.
- 3. I feel that any general intelligence report on West China is of special interest to anyone in the intelligence community who deals with the area. It will be of only general or passing interest to individuals concerned primarily with industrialized East China.

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4. The collection and organization problems of this reportioned complex and made the estimation of deadlines difficult. The more remote and exotic the area, the greater should be deadline leeway.

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l Enclosure: CIA/RR-G-11

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